

Plant of the Month

Lady in Red Salvia (*Salvia coccinea*)

Have you seen that 'Lady in Red'? She's turning heads throughout Georgia with her continuous display of brilliant scarlet flowers from spring until fall frost. Unlike the familiar bedding plant salvias that stay short and compact, Lady in Red Salvia (*Salvia coccinea*) grows 2 to 2.5 feet tall.



It's the focus of attention in a large container, and it provides a brilliant back-drop for gray, blue, burgundy or white. It's a knock-out when used with Powis Castle Artemesia, Japanese Aster (*Kalimeris pinnatifida*), Pigmy Crimson Barrberry, Persian Shield (*Strobilanthes*) or its purple and blue cousins Mealy-cup Sage (*Salvia farinacea*) or Blue Anise Sage (*Salvia guaranitica*).



Lady in Red Salvia is somewhat self-grooming in the landscape and does not require frequent dead-heading (removal of old blossoms) like many other salvias do. The old flower stalks just seem to fade into the background as they are replaced by new ones.

Another advantage of Lady in Red Salvia is that it is a reseeding annual, so you're likely to experience many happy returns from the original planting. Seed can also be collected in fall and planted in March for April transplants and a head start on the growing season.

Plant Characteristics

- ☐ **Plant Type:** Reseeding summer annual
- ☐ **Plant Size:** 2 to 2.5 feet tall and wide

Cultural Requirements

- ☐ **Exposure:** Full sun/afternoon shade preferred
- ☐ **Soils:** Moist, well-drained
- ☐ **Planting:** Plant in late spring after soil has warmed.
- ☐ **Fertility:** Broadcast a complete, balanced fertilizer such as 10-10-10 at planting. Follow with 16-4-8 in May, June and September. Apply liquid feed as necessary when plants appear hungry.
- ☐ **Propagation:** Collect seed in fall for spring planting.